

November 2001

Group Therapy-Trouble getting several popular titles on microfilm

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Recommended Citation

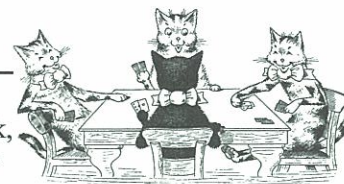
Bazirjian, Rosann (2001) "Group Therapy-Trouble getting several popular titles on microfilm," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 13: Iss. 5, Article 37.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3237>

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Group Therapy

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GRIFE: (Submitted by **Buddy Pennington**, Document Delivery Librarian, Kansas City Public Library)

In looking at our annual renewal list from **ProQuest-Bell and Howell-UMI** (take your pick) we have discovered that several fairly popular titles are no longer available on microfilm. The list of titles that affects our library is:

- *Audubon* • *Business Ethics Quarterly*
- *Motor Boating* • *World Press Review*
- *Country Music* • *Discover*
- *Field and Stream* • *Journal of Career Planning and Employment*
- *Outdoor Life* • *Popular Science*
- *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*
- *Skiing magazine* • *Sky and telescope*

When I contacted our rep at **ProQuest**, we were told that the publishers had decided not to continue to pay for microform. We obviously can live without the film for some of these titles, but it seems to me that the publishers are making a big mistake in discontinuing such titles as **Popular Science**, **Discover**, **World Press Review**, etc.

Is there anything we can do about this? Also, what ideas do you have about retaining this stuff? We do not have room to bind the materials. We can send the issues out to a vendor to film them, but many of these titles have missing issues by the end of the volume (another important reason for the file). And these other vendors charge more than **ProQuest** does.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **Tina Creguer**, Director, Communications/Public Relations **ProQuest** Information and Learning)

This is an interesting question, and we're pleased to try to clarify what's happening. First, it's important to note that none of these publishers "pay" for microfilming. We have relationships with more than 8,000 publishers worldwide; we incur the cost of filming (or scanning for electronic products) of all periodicals and pay the publisher a royalty for any sales of their materials.

Rights to microfilm many of the titles in this list have, in fact, ceased at the request of the various publishers. A number of the microform agreements were suspended due to concerns surrounding the Tasini case. Now that the Supreme Court has clearly differentiated microform versions of publications from electronic databases, we anticipate that microform versions will be available again soon. Some titles were suspended by publishers due to other business reasons.

There is a continual ebb and flow of agreements between publishers and information providers, and the cause varies in each case. We anticipate that many of the titles listed will be available again soon, and that no lapse in coverage will occur.

RESPONSE: (Submitted by **Julia A. Gammon**, Head, Acquisitions Department, University of Akron)


A couple of options come to mind. Have you done a use study of the microfilm for these titles to see what kind of traffic you're talking about? It seems to me that would tell you what kind of investment in time, space, and money you should make. If your use statistics indicate that you need these titles, I would inform the publisher that you are unhappy with the decision to no longer support microfilm and ask them what other options they suggest. Not that the publisher will necessarily do anything, but you'll feel better!

In looking over this list of titles, I noticed some are available in print and electronically. Many publishers are offering both print and electronic formats with only a small price increase. This may compare favorably with the microform and storage costs and provide better access to users.

Investigate document delivery options. It might be cheaper for you to purchase the ar-

ticles that are requested, than to buy, bind, shelve, or replace materials not used. If a commercial document delivery product is not feasible, or cost effective, consider forming, or joining, a local or regional consortium of libraries. The consortium could then provide document delivery services for each other. This might be quicker than interlibrary loan too.

Space considerations are serious ones. Have you considered renting off site storage for your library? Would other regional libraries be interested in sharing the costs? If so, you could use these libraries in the consortium to provide issues for a "master" copy of the journal for document delivery. How many complete back runs does the consortium really need?

If you see no option but to replace the missing print issues, back issue dealers can be useful. Subscription agents who provide check-in services for libraries often have free issues to provide to their customers. Of course, the publisher may also sell back issues for replacement. And finally, library users, if informed, will often donate issues of more popular titles and get a tax write off to boot. 

WEBWORTHY —

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*Websites selected for broad appeal, depth of information, and ease of access. Sites are organized by broad subject area and are visited just prior to publication. Please let the editor know of any sites that are not accessible. Comments and suggestions welcome to **Pamela M. Rose**, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo, 3435 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14214-3002; 716-829-2408 <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu>. Unless otherwise noted in square brackets following the description, Internet addresses were published in **Science**, **NetWatch** column edited by **Jocelyn Kaiser**. — PR*

Entomology

Dr. Seuss didn't write just children's fare like *The Cat in the Hat*. In 1943, U.S. Army GIs were treat to the saga of "Ann" *Anopheles Mosquito* who, Dr. Seuss warned, can "knock you flat for keeps." The tale can be viewed with graphics or plain text on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) Web site. Browse Leaf Beetles, just one of the 9 insect related Web searchable databases. Use the Quick SElector pop up menu to jump to Acari — Mites and Ticks: a virtual introduction, just one of over 9 informational pages including wonderful specimen

photos. Each lower level page is unique in design and layout, and most include many interesting related links. — <http://www.sel.barc.usda.gov/selhome/selhome.htm>

Hoaxes

Do you believe that lemmings commit suicide by hurling themselves off cliffs? Or that the Eskimo language includes over 100 words for snow? Check out your gullibility index at The Museum of Hoaxes, a wonderful site logically organized either by category or by a timeline of the year the hoax was perpetrated on unsuspecting folks as far back as pre-1700. Learn the origin and definition of the word "hoax," catch up on the "hoax of the day," and browse websites like manbeef.com, "human flesh for the discriminating connoisseur" that are hoaxes in themselves. — <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/index.html>

Mathematics

Billed as "an Internet Resource Catalogue for Mathematics," Mathgate is indeed all that and more! Scores of math sites are organized A-Z, by subject or by type. The fully searchable and browsable sites are selected by subject specialists who scan the Internet to locate and catalogue substantial and high quality UK and

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